

August 25, 2008

The Common Council met as the Water Utility Board at 7:00 p.m. on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Richard Demarco – Johnson Controls, Inc.; Jerry Walden; Debbie Bennett Stearsman – Economic Development Coalition; Andy Hoehn; Judy and Dave Whitten; Larry Williams; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; and Amy Moore – Mount Vernon Democrat.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented. Board member Curtis moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Board member Fuelling. Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker requested action on the claims presented. Board member Askren moved the claims presented be allowed for payment. Seconded by Board member Higgins. Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

\*\*\*\*\*CLAIMS\*\*\*\*\*

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the report of the Water Chairman. Chairman Curtis stated he would like to thank Comm. Gray and his department for the work they did on 4<sup>th</sup> and Kimball Streets, they did a good job and avoided a boil order. He then stated he will turn it over to Mr. DeMarco now for an update on the water project. Mr. DeMarco reported the progress is study and the suction and discharge side of the pumping station is complete. He added the line has been placed into the river and they are now waiting on valves, at which time, they will then run the cabling for power. He continued his update by stating they have started trenching and the pipe and conduit have been run and they are almost ready to build. He added the September 1 deadline is still a good completion date for the temporary pumping station. He then stated as for the filter building the floor is installed and they have the rebar on the walls and in two to two and a half weeks, all the walls will be poured and in place. He continued by stating work on the lamella tanks is going well and is also on schedule, though they are waiting daily on equipment deliveries. He then stated the filter system will have to be reworked (sandblasted and repainted), but he is very satisfied with PPMI, they are doing a great job, as is Supt. Gray. All in all, he stated, it is an excellent project. Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ? There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if Supt. Gray had a report ? Supt. Gray replied he has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Board ? Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated she has no report.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any Legals for consideration ?

Attorney Higgins replied there is a Resolution for Board's signatures, which addresses the purchase of property, as they had approved at a previous meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe circulated the Resolution for Board signatures.

Mayor Tucker asked if there were any other Legals for consideration ?

There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Board ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker stated if there was no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Board member Askren moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Board member Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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John Tucker  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfe  
Clerk-Treasurer

The Common Council met immediately following the Water Utility Board on the above date in the Meeting Room at City Hall Annex with Mayor Tucker presiding and members Askren, Fuelling, Hoehn, Curtis, and Higgins attending. Others attending were Attorney Higgins; Supt. Gray; Richard Demarco – Johnson Controls, Inc.; Jerry Walden; Debbie Bennett Stearsman – Economic Development Coalition; Andy Hoehn; Judy and Dave Whitten; Larry Williams; Pam Robinson – Posey County News; Amy Moore – Mount Vernon Democrat; and arriving during the meeting, Asst. Fire Chief Riggs; Lt. Angel; Bob Boerner; and Chief Beloit.

Mayor Tucker called the meeting to order by stating members were either mailed or hand carried copies of the minutes of their previous meeting and by asking if there were any corrections or additions. He added if not, he entertains a motion to waive their reading and to approve the minutes as presented. Councilman Fuelling moved the reading of the minutes be waived and they be approved as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Standing Committees.

Street & Light Chairwoman Askren stated she has no report.  
Comm. Maynard was not present.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?  
There were none.

Police & Dog Chairman Fuelling stated he has no report.  
Chief Beloit was not present.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?  
There were none.

Fire Chairwoman Hoehn stated she has no report.  
Chief Waters was not present.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?  
There were none.

Sewer Chairwoman Higgins stated she has no report.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there were any questions ?  
There were none.

Mayor Tucker asked if the Clerk-Treasurer had any Communications for the Council ?  
Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied not at this time.

Mayor Tucker stated the first item on the Legal portion of the Agenda is the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the proposed Ordinance Establishing Appropriations and Tax Rates for the Year Ending December 31, 2009.  
Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe explained this is "the budget". She stated it is a compilation of the budgets Council reviewed in June, with the amounts to be raised to fund those budgets, and the tax rate. She added the public hearing will be September 15 and final passage on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September.  
Councilman Curtis moved the ordinance pass on first reading. Seconded by Councilman Askren.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?  
There was none.  
Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.  
Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:  
Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;  
Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.  
Mayor Tucker stated the ordinance passed first reading unanimously.  
Bob Boerner arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item for consideration is the proposed Ordinance Establishing Salaries and Wages for Appointed Officers and Employees for the City of Mount Vernon for the Year Ending December 31, 2009.  
Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated this is the salary ordinance for all employees, with the exception of the Elected Officials. She added it also lists longevity, holidays for 2009, etc., and must also be passed by September 29.  
Councilwoman Askren moved the ordinance pass on first reading. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.  
Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?  
There was none.  
Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.  
Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:  
Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;  
Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the ordinance passed first reading unanimously.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item is a Resolution to Transfer in the Park & Recreation, MVHF, and CCDF Funds.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe stated even after the receipt of the tax anticipations warrants, some funds did not receive enough to make their bills. One of these transfers will enable them to make the fire truck payment of \$67,000 which is due in September. She added there are also over \$150,000 in paving bills that are NOT included in this transfer that will have to be paid.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if this is just another band aid and will there possibly be another transfer at even the next meeting ?

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe replied that is a very real possibility. She added she wished she could tell them with some certainty when they could expect a tax settlement, but right now, it is anyone's guess.

Councilman Curtis agreed and added even the County has no idea when a settlement may happen.

Councilwoman Askren moved the Resolution be passed. Seconded by Councilman Fuelling.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any further discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 08-18.

Mayor Tucker stated the next item is a Resolution Regarding the Delta Queen.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated, if she is reading this correctly, the Resolution if passed, will allow the Delta Queen to stay on the Ohio River, as it is built from non flame retardant materials. She added she also understand that other communities are passing similar Resolutions, Evansville among them.

Attorney Higgins agreed and added it also recognizes the Delta Queen as being an historic vessel and asks that she remain in commission.

Councilwoman Hoehn moved the Resolution be approved. Seconded by Councilman Curtis.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any discussion ?

There was none.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Clerk-Treasurer Wolfe added it will be numbered 08-19.

Attorney Higgins stated she has prepared the Resolution for signature that they had discussed at a previous meeting again, dealing with the purchase of property for the Street Department. She added she will have the Water Rate Ordinance ready at the next meeting. She then stated she has also given Council, for their review, an Ordinance on internet policies and procedures, proper usage regarding electronic media, etc. She added they may have a first reading at the next meeting, but as they will see, the ordinance is very specific in creating rules and policies and that these devices should be used primarily for municipal uses. She added if adopted, all current and new employees will be given a copy to read and sign off on.

Lt. Angel and Asst. Fire Chief Riggs arrived at the meeting.

Mayor Tucker stated in the Audience is Debbie Bennett Stearsman with the Economic Development Coalition.

Ms. Stearsman approached and stated she has met with Mayor Tucker concerning the status of the city's grants, projects, etc., and will now update the Council. She then distributed handouts to the Council regarding specific grant procedures, along with a proposed timeline on a Storm Water grant application. She added Mount Vernon received an earmark from Congressman Ellsworth, which was signed off on last week, INDOT TEA funds, and it has been turned in. She then stated the city's comprehensive plan is in order and there are monies available for storm water planning, as Mayor Tucker indicated he is interested in. She then referred the Council to Page 6 of their first handout, stated the maximum grant award for most planning grant applications is \$50,000; though for environment infrastructure projects, the limits are \$30,000 for a study on a single utility; \$40,000 for a study on two utilities; and \$50,000 for a study on water, wastewater, and storm water utilities. She further reminded Council that in order to participate in the Planning Grant program, communities must commit at least ten percent (10%) of the total project cost in matching funds toward the grant.

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Councilman Curtis questioned the city signing a letter of intent on a storm water grant, would that obligate the city ?

Ms. Stearsman replied no, there would be no obligation, as the Council can read on Page 9 of their handout.

Councilman Curtis stated with grants, lots of times the city can get to a certain point within the process where they are committed. He added he has no objections to starting this process, but right now the city has water projects going, sewer projects going, and no income coming in.

Mayor Tucker stated there are lines in the Storm Sewer budget, and normally, there is money there for this type of work.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked Mayor Tucker on a scale of 1-10, how important the storm sewer work is ?

Mayor Tucker replied in certain areas, some in District 3, it is pretty important.

Ms. Stearsman stated the city would not need to come up with any match dollars until 2009, most likely in February and then again in December.

Councilman Fuelling stated he wishes he had the foresight to see what lies ahead financially – after the year it takes to complete the study,

Ms. Stearsman stated though she shouldn't say this, the city does not have to do anything further once the study is completed.

Councilman Curtis agreed and added they do not have to move forward, but the study itself would be complete in a year.

Chief Beloit arrived at the meeting.

Lt. Angel left the meeting.

Ms. Stearsman stated they need to keep in mind the total cost to the city would be 10% of the cost of the total project.

Councilman Fuelling stated after the study is complete, what is the timeframe for the effective plan ?

Councilman Curtis replied the plan would still be effective regardless, and the topography would not change.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated she would like Comm. Maynard to be present before they proceed, he is the department head over this.

Councilman Fuelling agreed that would be a good idea.

Councilwoman Hoehn stated this is really his baby, he oversees this work, though she would like to thank Ms. Stearsman for her work, she appreciates the information and the overview. She added she now has an idea of what needs to be done, but she would still like to table any action on this until she talks with Comm. Maynard.

Ms. Stearsman stated the city can have two open grants at a time, they have one already, so they do have a slot available.

Councilwoman Hoehn asked if there would be any harm in waiting until the next meeting to make a decision ?

Ms. Stearsman replied no, they have some time to wait if they so choose.

Councilwoman Hoehn again stated she would like to table any action until Comm. Maynard could be contacted.

Mayor Tucker stated he has talked with Comm. Maynard and he is all for it, but it is ultimately up the Council what they do.

Councilwoman Askren stated she feels they could go ahead and proceed with the storm water grant letter of intent, since they could always pull out at a later date.

Ms. Stearsman replied that is correct, they could even pull out after the grant is funded.

Councilwoman Askren moved they proceed with the grant on the storm water work, pulling out at a later date if need be. Seconded by Councilwoman Higgins.

Mayor Tucker requested a roll call vote.

Roll was called by the Clerk-Treasurer with Council voting as follows:

Askren – yes; Fuelling – yes; Hoehn – yes;

Curtis – yes; Higgins – yes.

Mayor Tucker stated the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Tucker asked if anyone in the Audience wished to address the Council ?

There was no response.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any Old Business ?

Councilman Fuelling stated he and Comm. Maynard discussed the dirt pile situation at the riverfront and the jumps have now been smoothed out and they do have a plan to seed, straw, and fertilize.

Mayor Tucker asked if there was any New Business ?

Councilwoman Hoehn stated in reference to the trees along the riverfront and the downtown that Comm. Maynard spoke about having to remove, she has discussed that with Comm. Maynard and they do have some additional information from Larry Kaplan, excellent information. Mr. Kaplan indicated the trees only have a life expectancy of three to eight years, and they all need to be replaced, due to the concrete they are planted in and around, the roots are being covered. She offered to set up a committee, though she understands some work has already been done on this by Judy Winiger, Kay Cox, and Alice Morris. She added Mrs. Winiger is supposed to sit down with her and go over a proposal they had received from Comb's Landscaping, though she has already been told it will NOT be cheap. She added the cost to replace will be around \$300 per tree.

Councilman Fuelling asked if Mr. Kaplan recommended any specific kind of tree to replace the old trees with ?

Councilwoman Hoehn replied yes, unfortunately it was a very long list. She added she was also given the name of Evansville's Arborist, who indicated it may not be in the best interest of the city to put the trees back. She added there is a lot of research yet to do and then there is always the question of funding – they may need to get public donations. She added there is no question the trees are dead and they need to be removed. She stated she will pass along any information she receives to the Council.

Council consented to permit Councilwoman Hoehn to continue gathering information.

Mayor Tucker stated they will now hear the reports of the Districts.

1<sup>st</sup> District Councilwoman Askren stated she has no report.

2<sup>nd</sup> District Councilman Fuelling stated he has no report.

3<sup>rd</sup> District Councilwoman Hoehn stated she has no report

4<sup>th</sup> District Councilman Curtis stated he has no report.

Councilwoman-at-Large Higgins stated she would like to remind everyone of the First Annual Mount Vernon River Days, September 12-13, 2008, beginning at 11:00 a.m. on the 12<sup>th</sup>, continuing until 10:00 or 11:00 p.m., then starting back up again at 7:30 a.m. on the 13<sup>th</sup>. She added there will be numerous food booths, a car show, kids events, demonstrations, etc. it should be a great event.

Mayor Tucker stated he would like to remind everyone of the meeting changes for September, instead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, they will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays, the 15<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. He then stated if there is no further business, he entertains a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Fuelling moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Councilwoman Hoehn.

Mayor Tucker stated all those in favor of the motion should signify in the affirmative; and following the vote, he reported the motion carried unanimously and adjourned the meeting.

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John Tucker  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cristi L. Wolfe  
Clerk-Treasurer